



Centre for
Pastoralism

Field Researcher for the Economic Survey of Pastoralists in Himachal Pradesh

October 2022

Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) works on a range of pastoralists' issues across the country and is looking to quantify the pastoral economy in India. Towards this, CfP is seeking to hire field researchers who would help implement this study in Himachal Pradesh.

NOTE : Field Researchers working on this project will be required to work in Himachal Pradesh and travel across the state. Field Researcher positions are short-term hires for 4-6 months.

Context

India has an estimated 74 million sheep, the third-highest population of sheep in the world, managed entirely by pastoral communities. Up to half of India's 148 million goats, also in the top two or three numbers globally, are managed by pastoralists. Close to 20 per cent of Indian dairies are stocked by cow and buffalo breeds developed by pastoral populations. Close to 40 per cent of India's domesticated animal population (73 of 179 breeds) has been developed by pastoral communities.

Despite these varied economic contributions, the grazing economy and its commodity/value chains remain largely under the radar. This invisibility derives primarily from the fact that this is an informal economy, with the sale of animals, milk, meat, wool, dung and leather taking place entirely outside of formal markets. CfP is in the process of quantifying the pastoral economy at the level of the household, as well as at regional and state levels. To begin with, we are conducting a pilot project in Himachal Pradesh. We believe such data will point to a substantial commodity/value chain and economy that would benefit from state and private investment.

The field researchers are expected to:

1. Understand fundamentals of rural economy and livelihoods, especially related to the pastoral economy;
2. Have passing familiarity with Himachal Pradesh, preferably with prior experience of living or working in the state;
3. Implement the collection of data across various field locations in Himachal Pradesh;
4. Co-produce datasets on the pastoral economy;
5. Be comfortable in using technical tablet devices for carrying out household surveys;
6. Flexible with work timings as per requirements of the study;
7. Have a valid driver's licence and know how to ride a motorcycle.

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Desired experience and qualifications:

Our ideal candidate is someone who has a strong research background and is able to understand the aspects of informal economy and commodity/value chains that are of interest to us. CfP would fund the project and enable access to a wide range of pastoral communities. The field researchers would be required to work in a team and undertake the study.

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- A Master's in Economics, Development Studies, Environmental Studies, Rural Management, Social Work OR relevant experience working on rural commodity production, labour economics, rural labour, social work and the development sector.
- Excellent written and oral skills in Hindi, and should be comfortable with reading and understanding English
- Ability to travel across Himachal Pradesh and conduct fieldwork

We will start shortlisting candidates for interviews on October 7th and continue until the position is filled. Please write to Aniruddh Sheth (aniruddh@centreforpastoralism.org) for more information on CfP, the project or the position. To apply, please fill up this [form](#) and submit your CV and a Cover Letter.

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